

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Once the drop D has been created, the pusher ~~22~~ 20 is displaced to push the capillary tube downwardly to a state where the lower end of the capillary tube can be dipped into the body fluid drop to obtain a sample. The pusher is then released for return to an upper position by a return spring (not shown). As disclosed in the aforementioned application, the fluid can then be transferred from the capillary tube to a test strip, thereby making the overall sampling procedure more convenient.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another embodiment of a sampling device 10" according to the invention is depicted in FIGS. 7 and 8. In that embodiment, the stimulator sleeve ~~24~~ 24" is slidable longitudinally relative to housing 26" and is provided with a through-slot 70, and an inner sleeve 72 (which supports the disposable), is provided with a through-slot 74 that is aligned with the through-slot 70. Those aligned through-slots 70, 74 are adapted to receive a test strip 30" which, if desired, includes an absorbent pad 60". The test strip 30", which may comprise a porous membrane 30A" and an absorbent pad 60" attached thereto, is manually inserted through the slots 70, 74 by the user.